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CHICO MAN CHARGED WITH BEING A FELON IN POSSESSION OF A FIREARM

SACRAMENTO--United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced that a federal grand jury returned an indictment today charging TOBIAS CHRISTOPHER VIGIL, age 31, of Chico, California, with being a felon in possession of a firearm on June 16, 2006. The firearm was recovered after VIGIL led Chico Police Department detectives on a high-speed chase, resulting with VIGIL crashing his car into the Halderson Tri-County Appliance Store, triggering an explosion and causing the building destruction by fire.

This case is the product of a joint investigation by the Chico Police Department, the Butte County Sheriff's Department and the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

According to Assistant United States Attorney Samuel Wong, who is prosecuting the case, the indictment references four prior felony convictions for which VIGIL was convicted, namely, (a) transportation or sale of a controlled substance on or about March 13, 1997, (b) felon in possession of a firearm, and evading an officer, both on or about November 26, 1997 and evading an officer on or about December 22, 2003.

If convicted, the maximum penalty under federal law under is 10 years imprisonment, a \$250,000 fine, 3 years supervised release, and a \$100 special penalty assessment.

The charges are only allegations and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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